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EVENT: SENTENCING

DEFENDANT: John Earl Cole, Sr. age 53, former Detroit Police Department civilian employee

FORMER DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE SENTENCED

John Earl Cole, Sr., a former Detroit Police Department civilian employee, was sentenced today to 180 months imprisonment by United States District Judge John Corbett O'Meara. Cole pleaded guilty in August 2004 to one count of Conspiracy to Distribute Five or More Kilograms of Cocaine, and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering. The offenses arose from Cole's involvement in the theft and embezzlement of at least 101 kilograms of cocaine from the Detroit Police Department Evidence room from approximately 1994 through 2000.

At the time of his plea, Defendant Cole admitted to the Court that he was a civilian delivery driver, who worked in the Evidence Room. Cole also admitted that he had stolen

approximately 100 kilograms of cocaine which had been seized by Detroit Police Officers and stored in the evidence room. On one occasion, Cole replaced the cocaine with unopened bags of Gold Medal Flour. Cole used the proceeds of his drug-trafficking to purchase numerous houses and other buildings in the City of Detroit, with the ownership disguised by placing title in the names of various relatives and associates.

Defendant Cole also testified at the trial of Donald C. Hynes, a police officer who retired in 2001. Prior to his retirement, Donald Hynes worked in the Evidence Room with Cole. In a trial which concluded March 28, 2005, Hynes was convicted of the same drug offenses as Defendant Cole, as well as embezzlement from the Detroit Police Department, Money Laundering Conspiracy, and False Declarations Before a Grand Jury. He faces a July 19, 2005, sentencing date. At trial, the government was able to establish that Defendant Hynes had access to the computer password of a Narcotics Division Lieutenant, which he used to change computer records of some cocaine stored in the Evidence Room, marking it as "to be destroyed," and lifting holds on it.

Following an investigation by the Detroit Police Department, Internal Affairs Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, an indictment charging nine people was returned in October 2002. Other than Defendants Hynes and Cole, and a Michigan State Police officer against whom charges later were dismissed, all of the other defendants were relatives or associates of Defendant John Cole, who assisted him in laundering proceeds of the crime or who lied to investigators. All of the other defendants, except the one against whom charges were dismissed, were convicted as well.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy stated that "This case demonstrates our commitment to rooting out all public corruption, including by law enforcement officers, root and branch. With our partners in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Detroit Police Department, we will continue to aggressively pursue such cases."

Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, said "This case represents a continuation of the FBI's aggressive stance in pursuing public corruption matters as it is one of our top priorities. Additionally, we would like to thank the Detroit Police Department and the Internal Revenue Service for their professionalism and assistance during this investigation."

Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal

Investigation, said, "Even though the stolen cocaine was long gone, the financial trail remained, allowing investigators to link the illegal proceeds to the guilty parties."

Defendant Cole has been in custody continuously since his indictment in October 2002. Because parole has been abolished in the federal system, Cole cannot receive early release from his sentence. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Sarah Resnick Cohen and Jonathan Tukul.